



Environmental Protection Agency

Hanford Budget and Impacts to Cleanup Priorities



Hanford Cleanup

EPA supports continued focus on cleanup work along the Columbia River
Excellent progress has been made over the past several years.

- **Solutions to groundwater contamination in the 300 Area and the Central Plateau continue to present technical challenges.**
- **Continued improvement to groundwater treatment systems along the Columbia River provide important environmental benefits.**
- **EPA's goal for cleanup of Hanford groundwater is to make it available for beneficial uses as soon as it is technically practicable.**
- **Understanding the nature and extent of subsurface contamination, and the potential impacts of that contamination on future groundwater quality is critical.**
- **Development of strategies to mitigate the potential impacts of subsurface contamination will be essential protecting and restoring groundwater and protecting the Columbia River.**



Many tough cleanup decisions remain in the Central Plateau

- **EPA's goal is a comprehensive and durable cleanup.**
- **The goal is to select and implement a cleanup strategy that “is protective of human health and the environment, cost effective, utilizes permanent solutions, alternative treatment technologies or resources recovery technologies to the maximum extent practicable (CERCLA Section 121)**
- **Institutional controls should be used to supplement, not supplant, engineering controls.**



Cleanup progress at Hanford is resource constrained

- **The current DOE funding profile for Central Plateau Cleanup does not support near-term efforts to implement recent or upcoming cleanup decisions.**
- **A flat funding profile for the Richland Operations Office is not consistent with EPA expectations that cleanup work should begin as soon as Records of Decision are in place.**

Given the resource limitations of the federal budget, the agencies are committed to working together to set cleanup priorities